



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: IV.B.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

DATE: July 9, 2008

SUBJECT: Approval of the State Partnership Protocol with the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) for the Joint Conduct of National Accreditation and State Program Approval of Maine Educator Preparation Programs

BACKGROUND: In 1992 the State Board of Education unanimously approved entering into a partnership relationship with the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) for the joint conduct of national accreditation and state program approval. NCATE accreditation is voluntary, while state program approval is required. The partnership has been designed to satisfy the desire of institutions that wish to seek national accreditation concurrent with state program approval; the NCATE and State processes are nearly identical. The exception being that NCATE accredits the unit, or infrastructure that supports the delivery of the program, and the state approves the program for certification purposes. Joint visits, conducted under the partnership have benefited institutions in many ways, including the reducing of potentially two team visits to a campus to one joint visit and the reduction of redundancy in other ways including the preparation of materials, scheduling of institutional interviews, and costs. In May, 2005 the Board approved moving from a 5-year to a 7-year approval cycle for Maine educator preparation programs that are both State approved and nationally accredited. This change has since been incorporated into State Board regulations, Chapter 114 – *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Educational Personnel Preparation Programs*. [For the Board's reference, attached is a copy of the current NCATE/Maine Partnership Protocol that is in effect to June, 2013].

The Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC), founded in 1997, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving academic degree programs for professional educators, those who will teach and lead in schools, pre-K through grade 12. TEAC's goal is to support the preparation of competent, caring, and qualified professional educators. TEAC's primary work is accrediting undergraduate and graduate professional education programs in order to assure the public about the quality of college and university programs.

The education program, not the college, school, department or other administrative unit of the institution, receives TEAC accreditation. An integral part of the TEAC program accreditation process, for a Maine institution, will be verifiable evidence and documentation that the program(s) meet the State Board's standards as well as TEAC's quality principles and standards.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve the proposed State Partnership protocol with the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) for the joint conduct of national accreditation and State program approval of Maine educator preparation programs. The effective date for this protocol will be September 1st 2008 to August 30th 2010.

*Prepared by Harry Osgood
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